MASS. HS30.2: C16/Winchester

UMASS/AMHERST
UMASS/AMHERST
312066 0374 7023 6

Cancer Mortality and Incidence in Winchester Males 1978 - 1982

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
JAN 02 1998
University of Massachusetts Depository Copy

INTRODUCTION

The Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology received a request to review male cancer deaths in the northeast section of Winchester, particularly in the Churchill Road area. The accompanying map (Figure 1) shows the location of Churchill Road, as well as the boundaries of the census tracts in Winchester. This investigation reviews male cancer mortality and incidence data for Winchester for the period 1978-1982. The mortality data were supplied by the Department's Division of Health Statistics and Research (DHSR), while the incidence data were supplied by the Cancer Registry.

MALE CANCER MORTALITY

According to the "Massachusetts Standardized Mortality Ratios: 1969-1978" book produced by the DHSR, the numbers of cancer deaths in both males and females in Winchester were significantly lower than expected during the period 1969-1978. To see whether the trend continued through the end of 1982, we examined cancer mortality data in male residents of Winchester for 1978-1982. During this five year period, 93 deaths due to cancer occurred in Winchester males, while 118 deaths due to cancer were expected, based on statewide rates. This number of observed deaths was significantly lower than expected.

We next looked at the number of cancer deaths occurring in male residents of the Churchill Road area. Winchester's population is divided into five census tracts (CT). For each CT, data exists where the population is broken down into sex and age categories. Using this information and applying state rates to this population, an expected number of deaths due to cancer can be calculated for this specific CT.

Churchill Road is located in CT 3381. The death certificates of 92 of the 93 cancer cases occurring in Winchester from 1978-1982 (one death certificate was not located) were pulled and the residence at the time of death was plotted on a map of Winchester. Eighteen cases resided in CT 3381. This compares to an expected number of male cancer deaths of 17.5 for CT 3881. The observed number of deaths is therefore approximately what was expected.

Of the 18 cases in CT 3381, the leading causes of deaths due to cancer were lung cancer (5 cases) and colon-rectum cancer (3 cases). In Massachusetts and in the United States, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in males, with prostate cancer second and colon-rectum cancer a close third.

Thus, the mortality data for both Winchester and for CT 3381 show no elevation in cancer mortality among males for the period 1978-1982.

MALE CANCER INCIDENCE

The state of Massachusetts has a Cancer Registry. By law, hospitals in this state are required to report newly diagnosed cases of cancer to the Cancer Registry within six months of diagnosis. The Registry began operating in 1982.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/cancermortalityi00mass_0

The Cancer Registry provided data on Winchester males who had been diagnosed with cancer in 1982. No specific cancer type was significantly elevated in Winchester males. The places of residences of these individuals were plotted on a map of Winchester to determine whether there was any clustering in the Churchill Road area. No such clustering was evident. Thus, the incidence data for Winchester and the Churchill Road area show no significant elevation in cancer diagnoses among males in 1982.

Figure 1
Winchester
Census Tracts
CT 3382
CT 3381
CT 3383
CT 3385
CT 3384
WINCHESTER